



FINDING GOD'S WILL — FOR — YOUR LIFE

PASTOR
DAVID NEWELL

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By

Pastor David Newell

In my plus fifty years of serving the Lord, perhaps the most important question I have heard is “what does God want me to do with my life?”

Back in 1965, this was my question. I had had a “Damascus Road” experience with Jesus Christ in 1962. From that moment, I knew the reality and the love that God had for me. But, as far as finding my life’s direction, I was perplexed.

I decided to talk with my Dad about it. My father was extremely honest but had real wisdom. I told him I had enjoyed working in the stock market with him, but the thought of working as a stockbroker did not excite me.

My Dad then asked me one question: “Have you asked the Lord what you are to do with your life?” I answered him that I had not. (Truthfully I was apprehensive as to what the Lord might ask me to do, that I did not want to do. In retrospect, when we surrender to the will of God, He gives us the desire He wants us to pursue (Psa.37:4-5).

My Dad said, “all I can say is if you continue to ask Him, He will answer you.” I asked him, “but how will I know it?” Dad said simply, “you will know”. I took his advice and after about three months of

seeking the Lord morning and evening, something changed. Every morning when I got up, the first thing I thought about was ministry and the last thing on my mind when I went to sleep was full time ministry. God was answering me by changing my heart. He took away my apprehensions and put an urgency in my soul.

As you read this booklet, I will give you keys to discovering God's unfolding will for your life. I trust these keys will help you find and embrace God's will for you.'

KEY NUMBER ONE

Know that the Lord has a special plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11; Eph.1:11-13). However, He reveals that plan in steps or stages. The first thing is to make finding that plan the first order of business (Matt.6:33). I have to say that in 1962, when I called on the Lord, repenting of my sins, He saved me and filled me with His love, but after some time, I sensed something was missing. I had no sense of being fulfilled.

KEY NUMBER TWO

We need to pursue the will of God with all our heart. “And you shall seek Me, and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer.29:13). I personally believe the Lord wants to see how serious we are in finding His will. Once I said “yes” to the Lord concerning ministry, the Lord gave me clear direction: “Go to Princeton Theological Seminary and prepare yourself”.

KEY NUMBER THREE

When it seems impossible to implement the open door, ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).

When the Lord told me to apply to Princeton, my question to Him was, “my grades in College were only C+/B-, they won’t let me in.” The Holy Spirit answered, “write a letter to Dr.Ray Lindquist”. Dr.Raymond Lindquist was my first pastor. He had rescued my Dad when he was struggling with alcoholism. We were members in his church in Orange, New Jersey. In 1953 after serving 20 years there, he accepted a call to the Hollywood Presbyterian church in Los Angeles. Ray was a wonderful mentor both to my parents and to me as well.

He quickly responded in a letter. He said as a trustee at the Seminary, he would make sure I was accepted. Soon afterwards, I went for an interview with the Dean of admissions and was accepted with reservations. However now I had clear direction and was committed to give my studies top priority.

KEY NUMBER FOUR

When the Lord opens a door, don't delay, go through it. In 1966, after my first semester at Seminary, my friend Dennis Young and I wanted to take a trip across the country, stopping in Yellowstone and Glacier Park for fishing and sightseeing. However, I sensed the Lord may have another plan. I prayed an insincere prayer: "Lord I will serve wherever you desire, even if it means missing the trip". I even prayed it twice! Within 48 hours, I received a call from a church that were taking their youth group to Florida. Even though I had not volunteered for anything, they found my name (I wonder how that happened,lol?).

I stammered and knew I had been found out! I lied saying, "I'll have to pray about it". In reality, I had no intention of doing God's will for me that summer. The Lord revealed what was in my heart.

My friend and I went on the trip but the first week I was miserable. Finally, I repented and told the Lord, "I will not do this again. If I am still in Your good graces, please open a door for ministry in the fall.I WILL go through that door." At the end of the first week, I called home and my mother told me she had received a call from Jerry Mills, the pastor of

St.Cloud Presbyterian church in West Orange. Pastor Jerry wanted to know if I would be available to serve as the youth pastor in the fall? I told her, “tell him YES!”

KEY NUMBER FIVE

See and understand the reason for the “season” you are in at the time. “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Eccl.3:1).

In 1967, the Lord opened a door for ministry that summer. The location was Davenport, New York, not far from Oneonta and Cooperstown. Besides preaching in three churches, I had to visit everyone in those churches and lead in the vacation Bible class in the Davenport Presbyterian church.

After being there one month, I began to wonder what specific purpose did the Lord have for me that summer? I made that my prayer going into the second month. Then a series of events happened that answered my question.

First of all, one of the members of the Davenport church, Sonny MacCracken, was rushed to the hospital after suffering a heart attack. I received a

next 10 years, giving the church over to his son Frank Jr. who is currently the senior pastor there. The Lord will show you the purpose for the season you are in.

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favored by Jesus Christ!**

Philippians 4:15-19

*As you sow in our ministry, the favor of
the Lord is upon you for blessing and for
prosperity.*